



Clean Watersheds Needs Survey:

Sustaining Clean Water by Informing Decisions

What is the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS)?

The Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) is a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs to meet the water quality goals set in the Clean Water Act. Every four years, the states and EPA collect information about:

- Publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities
- Stormwater management projects
- Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control facilities
- Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects
- Decentralized wastewater management

EPA reports the results in a Report to Congress. The data is used by Congress, state legislatures and agencies, and local governments to:

- Inform budget and policy decisions
- Develop and implement technical and financial assistance programs
- Help measure environmental progress

How can Community Stakeholders help their state accurately report needs?

Data collection for CWNS 2008 is currently underway (February 4, 2008 - February 27, 2009). States rely on a variety of resources, including Community Stakeholders, to gather the information to accurately report needs to EPA. Community Stakeholders can include representatives of:

- Wastewater treatment plants
- Municipal stormwater programs
- Municipal health departments
- And others with knowledge of water quality needs in their community
- Planning authorities
- Service providers
- Watershed organizations

Community Stakeholders provide their State with valuable information about the needs and technical information for their facilities and projects. Community Stakeholders often have the most recent information about water quality needs in their area.

Community Stakeholders participate in CWNS 2008 in one or more of the following ways:

- Provide updated documents to their State CWNS Coordinator
- Complete the Small Community Needs Survey
- Provide feedback on needs and technical information via the CWNS Data Entry Portal (DEP)
- Directly update Unit Process and Utility Management data via the DEP

Learn more at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns>

How can Community Stakeholders participate in CWNS 2008?

Provide updated documents to their State CWNS Coordinator

To be eligible for CWNS 2008, States must submit documents describing water quality needs and the costs to address them for the facility or project. Commonly user documents include:

- Capital Improvement Plans
- Facility plans
- Final engineer estimates
- Unfunded grant or loan applications
- Sanitary surveys
- Watershed-based plans

A complete list of documents pre-approved for CWNS 2008 is available at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/cwns2008.htm>. Contact information for all State CWNS coordinators is available at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/wherelive.htm>.

Complete the Small Community Needs Survey

For CWNS 2008, Small Communities have a total present resident population less than 10,000 persons. Small Communities can document needs and costs by completing a Small Community Survey and returning it to their State CWNS Coordinator. Contact your State CWNS Coordinator to determine if a survey will be mailed to your community or if you should complete the Small Community Needs survey available at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/cwns2008.htm>.

Update data via the CWNS Data Entry Portal (DEP)

Community stakeholders apply for their accounts at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/cwns2008.htm>. State CWNS Coordinators decide whether to accept/reject users, usually within five business days. It is important that Community Stakeholders answer all questions in the application and provide as much information about themselves and their interest in CWNS. This information assists States to approve users' accounts in a timely manner. State inquiries for additional information must be responded to in twenty days, or the State CWNS Coordinator will deny the applicant access.

Community stakeholders with approved CWNS DEP accounts can:

- Provide feedback on needs and technical information via the DEP. Data areas that are particularly important are description of the project/facility and needed changes, point of contact information, population, wastewater treatment plant address, and cost information.
- Directly update Unit Process and Utility Management data via the DEP (see next page for example screens). Unit Process data submitted by communities helps EPA and States focus their technical support programs.

The *CWNS 2008: Local User Manual* provides detailed information on how to apply for account and use the DEP. It is available at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/cwns2008.htm>.

Learn more at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns>

- Access data from previous surveys
- Find contact information for state and EPA regional CWNS coordinators at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/wherelive.htm>
- Get Information and resources for CWNS 2008 at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/cwns2008.htm>

Example: Unit Process Data in CWNS 2008 Data Entry Portal

Unit Process

Preliminary

	Unit Process	Present	Projected	Backup	Change	Planned Year	Additional Notes	Edit	Delete
	Grit Removal	✓	✓		No Change				

[Add Unit Process](#)

Primary

	Unit Process	Present	Projected	Backup	Change	Planned Year	Additional Notes	Edit	Delete
	Sedimentation, Primary	✓	✓		No Change				

[Add Unit Process](#)

Secondary

	Unit Process	Present	Projected	Backup	Change	Planned Year	Additional Notes	Edit	Delete
<input type="radio"/>	Activated Sludge, Conventional	✓	✓		No Change				
<input type="radio"/>	Filter, Mixed Media	✓	✓		No Change				

[Add Unit Process](#)

Advanced

	Unit Process	Present	Projected	Backup	Change	Planned Year	Additional Notes	Edit	Delete
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[Add Unit Process](#)

Disinfection

	Unit Process	Present	Projected	Backup	Change	Planned Year	Additional Notes	Edit	Delete
	Disinfection, Chlorination	✓	✓		No Change				

[Add Unit Process](#)

Solids Handling

	Unit Process	Present	Projected	Backup	Change	Planned Year	Additional Notes	Edit	Delete
<input type="radio"/>	Biosolids Mechanical Dewatering	✓	✓		No Change				

Example: Utility Management Data in CWNS 2008 Data Entry Portal

Utility Management

Utility Management Practices	Implementation	Remaining Costs to Implement (\$)	Annual Costs to Operate (\$)
ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems	Fully Implemented		100000
National Biosolids Partnership	In Process of Implementing	200000	50000
Optimized Asset Management Plans and Programs	Considering Implementation	100000	25000
Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance (CMOM) Programs	Not Considering Implementation		
Balanced Scorecard			
APWA Accreditation Program			
QualServ			
Partnership for Safe Water			
Bid-to-Goal			

Fully Implemented
In Process of Implementing
Considering Implementation
Not Considering Implementation

Save
reset